

Kristina Lausch
H.B 5174 – An Act to Establish a Children's State Flower

My name is Kristina Lausch. I am a third grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary School in New Britain and co-teacher of the Lincoln Green Team. I am writing in support of H.B. 5174 – An Act to Establish a Children's State Flower. Last year, the Lincoln Green Team – an after-school program that empowers students to help the environment – was invited to help plant the Michaela's Garden in Walnut Hill Park. The students learned about Four O'clock's, Michaela's favorite flower, and the plant's strength and resilience. They also learned about Michaela and how she lived her life - her beautiful heart, the special bond she shared with her father, and how much she gave back to others at her young age and in her short time with us. By the looks on their faces when the work was done and the conversation on the walk back to school, it was undeniable how proud the students were to have been part of establishing this garden in their own community, and one of the first in the state.

Together, the habits and attitudes of every one of us have the potential to make a great difference – for the larger world and its future well being. It should be our desire as parents, teachers, and anyone with a vested interest in our state's – our world's - future, that our children learn and live with the habits and attitude that Michaela did.

Michaela is remembered for having lived by a favorite quote by Gandhi – “You must be the change you wish to see in the world” We have this beautiful opportunity before us, and I can't think of a better place to start or a better way to remember her and honor her family.